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COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Soviet Influence on Medicine in Hungary

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1. Doctors

- a. In 1946, the so-called "Doctors' Trade Union" was inaugurated and the Hungarian doctors were told that this would be the new version of the pre-war Hungarian Medical Association. It was not necessary to belong to any party in order to join the new group. However, the chief-secretary of this organization, Emil Weil, was an ardent Communist; and the state secretary at the Ministry of Welfare, where medical questions were handled, Janos Vikol, was also a Communist.
- b. By the beginning of 1947, every position was filled by those doctors who had entered the party or else were in sympathy with it. The heads of the universities' clinics were chosen from this group. However, it was still possible for patients, if they could afford it, to have special medical treatment from private doctors.
- c. In 1947, all the health institutes and social insurance institutes were nationalized and incorporated into the OTI (Orszagos Tarsadalom Biztosit Intezet). This did not appear to mean much at first, but gradually it became evident that the OTI appointed the doctors to the hospitals throughout the entire country. The workers of a factory, a store, or a ministry were only allowed to go to the doctor appointed in the district where they lived and annual medical fees were automatically deducted from their salaries. They could go to another doctor, if they paid him separately. This system served two purposes. In the first place, the doctors were controlled, and they earned a fixed salary. Secondly, each patient would have a file, therefore if the party, the police, or the army needed any information about an individual, the district doctor would be able to supply them with it in detail.

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- d. This system has resulted in the nationalization of almost all the doctors and with them all the hospitals, and the medical profession has been gradually drawn into the Party. Those who could avoid membership in the Communist Party have to be experts and very much needed by the Party. However, all doctors are required to attend seminars and learn the Russian language.

2. Hospitals

- a. In 1948 a survey was made of the hospitals and reconstruction was promised to many of them.

- b. The first hospitals taken over by the Russians were the following:

Clinic for Internal diseases	-	Budapest.
General Hospital	-	Székesfehérvár.
2 Private Sanatoriums	-	Budapest.
General Hospital	-	Szombathely.
General Hospital	-	Sopron.
Part of the Clinic	-	Debrecen.

- c. At the beginning of December 1949, the following hospitals in Budapest also were handed over to the management of Russian doctors:

- 1) Szent Janos, Gyali ut
- 2) Jozsef Attila, Abonyi utca
- 3) Ullói ut klinika
- 4) Balcsot Korhaz, Otba
- 5) Szent Janos csoport, Csengeri utca
- 6) Magdolnavarosi korhaz
- 7) Szemmelweis szülőotthon
- 8) Kornay felek házcsoport
- 9) Fácseri szanatorium.

- d. There has been no report on the hospitals taken over by the Russians.

- e. The following hospitals are being constructed or enlarged and are to be finished by the end of 1950:

Görömbölytapolca (sic)	400 beds new
Miskolc	950 " reconstructed
Debrecen	1500 " enlarged
Szentes	500 " reconstructed
Karcag	500 " reconstructed
Kiskun Felegyhaza	500 " partly new

- f. The Government has changed the names of the following hospitals:

Rokos korhaz	- Szemmelweis Ignaz korhaz
Janos korhaz	- Balasza Janos korhaz
Szent Laszlo korhaz	- Fodor Jozsef korhaz
Szent Istvan korhaz	- Polya Jenő korhaz
Madarasz utca korhaz	- Bokay Janos korhaz
Angyalfoldi korhaz	- Sugat Pál korhaz
Margit korhaz	- Jendrassik Erno korhaz
Károlyi korhaz Ujpest	- Fazekas Mihaly korhaz-Ujpest

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3. Russian indoctrination

- a. In August 1949, the whole medical program was reformed with great rapidity. The doctors were urged to form brigades for better work in both research and attendance. The first such brigade was organized by Dr. Sandor Flamm, of the Rokus hospital in Budapest; this brigade was named after the great Russian doctor Eck. The members of this brigade promised to learn the Russian language in the shortest possible time.
- b. Further brigades were organized and some of their members went to the Soviet Union to further their medical knowledge.

4. Blood banks

In October 1949, some doctors returned from the Soviet Union and proposed to Vikol and Jcil that blood donor stations should be organized systematically in the various towns of Hungary. Since very few people presented themselves, Mrs. Szakasits, wife of the president of Hungary, promised a gold medal to those who gave blood, and at the same time the Communist Party secretaries in the various plants and enterprises urged the Hungarians to give blood. The first successful station was at Szombathely, at the Military Hospital, already under Russian control; the second station was in Budapest, Daroczy ut; the third at the Clinic of Debrecen, and the fourth at the clinic of Pecs. Information from the donors was that either the doctor, or the nurse, or the clerk was Russian.

5. Nursing

In the meantime, the nurses were gradually called and indoctrinated with Communist ideas; they had to finish the Communist seminars and learn the Russian words essential for communicating with Russian doctors. Such an ideological school was established at Szeged; its director was Pirooska Ordogh, a former worker at the Szeged Shoe Manufacturing Company. Further nurses' schools were organized under the directorship of Istvan Casvari: Budapest Hieronimi ut 26, and Munkacsy utca 19; at Szeged, Debrecen, Szekesfehervar, Sopron, Szombathely, Hodmezso Vasarhely, and Bekescsaba. Emphasis is placed on war diseases, surgery, and the Russian language. These nurses were chosen from among the workers, who "volunteer" and then return to their ordinary jobs after completion of their studies. Each year, they have to report for one month.

6. Administration

- a. In October 1949, a new Russian surgeon, accompanied by three young Russian assistants, arrived in Budapest to take over the "Third Surgical Clinic". The Minister of Education required the Hungarian students to attend regularly the classes given by Prof. Petrovsky, as he taught war surgery, a subject which formerly had had no special chair at the University.
- b. At the beginning of July, Professor Petrovsky made a report to a commission made up of Janos Vikol, Emil Jcil, Lt. General Gesa Revesz, and three high-ranking Russian officers. The report stated that there were about 1,000 surgeons who could be mobilized immediately. A list has been made of their names and they have been advised not to travel without first informing the "Doctors' Union" of their plans. Of this group, 250 have taken special courses on war surgery during the winter. There are about 2,000 general practitioners who would be immediately available. Also, the nurses' training schools had been placed under the control of Prof. Petrovsky and his Russian colleague, Prof. Zhapozhkov. There are about 5,000 nurses, but only a part of this number are working. This group can be mobilized immediately, and had received its training in the last two years.

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7. Drugs

A new and important styptic for war surgery is called "Trombofort". The streptomycin and penicillin production has reached such a high scale that the respective prices are the following:

200,000 units	8.00 forint, ready for penicillin cure.
100,000 units	4.00 forint, oil penicillin.
200,000 units	6.60 forint, oil penicillin.
300,000 units	9.20 forint, oil penicillin.

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